

Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364; 120 Stat. 2290), including electronic data files and biological specimens on all participants in the study (including control subjects).

(c) **MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF TRANSFERRED ASSETS.**—The Medical Follow-Up Agency shall maintain and manage the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study.

(d) **ADDITIONAL NEAR-TERM RESEARCH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Medical Follow-Up Agency may, during the period beginning on October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2011, conduct such additional research on the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study as the Agency considers appropriate toward the goal of understanding the determinants of health, and promoting wellness, in veterans.

(2) **RESEARCH.**—In carrying out research authorized by this subsection, the Medical Follow-Up Agency may, utilizing amounts available under subsection (f)(1)(B), make grants for such pilot studies for or in connection with such research as the Agency considers appropriate.

(e) **ADDITIONAL MEDIUM-TERM RESEARCH.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 31, 2011, the Medical Follow-Up Agency shall submit to Congress a report assessing the feasibility and advisability of conducting additional research on the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study after September 30, 2011.

(2) **DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.**—If the report required by paragraph (1) includes an assessment that the research described in that paragraph would be feasible and advisable, the Agency shall, utilizing amounts available under subsection (f)(2), make any disposition of the assets transferred to the Agency from the Air Force Health Study as the Agency considers appropriate in preparation for such research.

(f) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From amounts available for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Medical and Prosthetic Research, amounts shall be available as follows:

(A) \$1,200,000 shall be available in each such fiscal year for maintenance, management, and operation (including maintenance of biological specimens) of the assets transferred to the Medical Follow-Up Agency from the Air Force Health Study.

(B) \$250,000 shall be available in each such fiscal year for the conduct of additional research authorized by subsection (d), including the funding of pilot studies authorized by paragraph (2) of that subsection.

(2) **MEDIUM-TERM RESEARCH.**—From amounts available for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Medical and Prosthetic Research, \$200,000 shall be available for the preparation of the report required by subsection (e)(1) and for the disposition, if any, of assets authorized by subsection (e)(2).

SEC. 806. NATIONAL ACADEMIES STUDY ON RISK OF DEVELOPING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR AND POST 9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS THEATERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to conduct a comprehensive epidemiological study for purposes of identifying any increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis as a result of service in the Armed Forces during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Institute of Medicine shall do the following:

(1) Determine whether service in the Armed Forces during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters, increased the risk of developing multiple sclerosis.

(2) Identify the incidence and prevalence of diagnosed neurological diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and brain cancers, as well as central nervous system abnormalities that are difficult to precisely diagnose, in each group as follows:

(A) Members of the Armed Forces who served during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

(B) Members of the Armed Forces who served in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(C) A non-deployed comparison group for those who served in the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(3) Compare the incidence and prevalence of the named diagnosed neurological diseases and undiagnosed central nervous system abnormalities among veterans who served during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, or in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters, in various locations during such periods, as determined by the Institute of Medicine.

(4) Collect information on risk factors, such as pesticide and other toxic exposures, to which veterans were exposed while serving during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters, or thereafter.

(c) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **INTERIM REPORT.**—The contract required by subsection (a) shall require the Institute of Medicine to submit to the Secretary, and to appropriate committees of Congress, interim progress reports on the study required under subsection (a). Such reports shall not be required to include a description of interim results on the work under the study.

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—The contract shall require the Institute of Medicine to submit to the Secretary, and to appropriate committees of Congress, a final report on the study by not later than December 31, 2010. The final report shall include such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Institute considers appropriate in light of the results of the study.

(d) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary shall provide the Institute of Medicine with such funds as are necessary to ensure the timely completion of the study required under subsection (a).

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term "Persian Gulf War" has the meaning given that term in section 101(33) of title 38, United States Code.

(3) The term "Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters" means Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other theater in which the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded for service.

SEC. 807. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO MAINTAIN SURVIVORS OF VETERANS WHO DIE FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 10 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the adequacy of dependency and indemnity compensation payable under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, to surviving spouses and dependents of veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability in replacing the deceased veteran's income.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the current system for the payment of dependency and indemnity com-

pensation to surviving spouses and dependents described in subsection (a), including a statement of the rates of such compensation so payable;

(2) an assessment of the adequacy of such payments in replacing the deceased veteran's income; and

(3) such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate in order to improve or enhance the effects of such payments in replacing the deceased veteran's income.

Amend the title so as to read: "To amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits, to improve benefits and services for transitioning servicemembers, and for other purposes."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 493

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 125, H.R. 493, the Genetic Nondiscrimination Act, on tomorrow, Thursday, April 24, and that when the bill is considered, the only amendment in order be a substitute amendment offered by Senators SNOWE, KENNEDY, and ENZI; that there be a total of 2 hours for debate on the bill and substitute amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of all time, the substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, it has taken a long time to get where we are now. I express my appreciation to Senator KENNEDY and Senator ENZI and others who worked very hard on this. We have said it before, but you can't say it enough: Senator KENNEDY and Senator ENZI have different political philosophies, but there are no two Senators who work better together on the committee than they do. They always act as gentlemen. They work very hard. But for their good work, we would not be where we are on this issue. I extend my appreciation to them and others who worked hard, but especially those two fine Senators.

VETERANS' BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT ACT—Continued

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate begins consideration of S. 1315 today, the Burr amendment relating to a striking provision be the only amendment in order, other than the committee-reported substitute, the title amendment, and a managers' technical amendment that has been cleared by the managers and leaders; that there be a time limit of 60 minutes for debate with respect to the Burr amendment on tomorrow, Thursday, with the time equally divided and controlled in the